

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Fort Myers Beach

August 2023

FORT MYERS BEACH



John & Kate + 8

THE GAUNTTTS

Cover Photo By Sandy Sandness

 Best Version Media®

OUR FEATURED PROPERTIES



21521 MADERA RD. \$3,975,000



4192 BAY BEACH LN. #835 \$899,000



6060 GULF RD. \$3,850,000

OUR CURRENT LISTINGS

7317 ESTERO BLVD #210	\$459,000
6500 ESTERO BLVD #H302	\$525,000
3190 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$550,000
5780 LAUDER ST	\$695,000
8401 ESTERO BLVD #606	\$699,000
3127 ESTERO BLVD	\$750,000
136 BAY MAR DR	\$779,000
140 BAHIA VIA	\$799,000
5583 ESTERO BLVD	\$799,000
2141 ESTERO BLVD	\$879,000
4192 BAY BEACH LN #835	\$899,000
3051 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$899,000
4880 COQUINA RD	\$899,000
5441-5451 OAK RIDGE AVE	\$1,149,000
254 OSTEGO DR	\$1,195,000
716 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,399,000
270 DUNDEE RD	\$1,499,000
71 MANGO ST	\$2,000,000
143 GULF ISLAND DR	\$2,199,000
130 BAHIA VIA	\$2,250,000
851 LAGOON ST	\$2,269,000
1750 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,495,000
823 LAGOON ST	\$2,499,000
260 FLAMINGO ST	\$2,899,000
5246 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,900,000
3610 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,200,000
19171 SAN CARLOS BLVD	\$3,499,000
6060 GULF RD	\$3,850,000
1710/1740 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,900,000
21521 MADERA RD	\$3,975,000
711 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,999,000

Sold Listings

7846 BUCCANEER DR	\$437,000
22748 ISLAND PINES WAY #403	\$475,000
5251 ESTERO BLVD	\$500,000
6662 ESTERO BLVD #B509	\$500,000
8170 LAGOON RD	\$555,000
117 HERCULES DR	\$600,000
132 ANDRE MAR DR	\$635,000
101 / 103 ANDRE MAR DR	\$650,000
7909 ESTERO BLVD	\$685,000
126 MADISON CT	\$689,000
105 MANDALAY RD	\$690,000
5770 LAUDER ST	\$775,000
3071 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$810,000
215 FLAMINGO ST	\$820,000
444 MADISON CT	\$860,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #303	\$880,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #505	\$888,000
250 ESTERO BLVD #606	\$890,000
424 PALERMO CIR	\$900,000
521 ESTERO BLVD	\$920,000
101 BAY MAR DR	\$925,000
239 PRIMO DR	\$940,000
8339 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,020,000
8211 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,050,000
277 IBIS ST	\$1,100,000
8351 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,100,000
1 BAYVIEW BLVD	\$1,650,000
5236 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,000,000
1550 I ST	\$2,200,000
60-64 AVENUE C	\$3,195,000
2430 COTTAGE AVE	\$3,200,000
3060 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,250,000
5950 ESTERO BLVD	\$4,800,000

Sold Buyer

7846 BUCCANEER DR	\$437,000
5251 ESTERO BLVD	\$500,000
6662 ESTERO BLVD #B509	\$500,000
108 VOORHIS ST	\$525,000
149 PEARL ST	\$550,000
8170 LAGOON RD	\$555,000
201 DELMAR AVE	\$580,000
140 MID ISLAND DR	\$600,000
240 MIRAMAR ST	\$605,000
243 ALBATROSS ST	\$630,000
129 CURLEW ST	\$650,000
2890 ESTERO BLVD	\$650,000
2880 ESTERO BLVD	\$650,000
101 / 103 ANDRE MAR DR	\$650,000
105 MANDALAY RD	\$690,000
3071 SHELL MOUND BLVD	\$810,000
424 PALERMO CIR	\$900,000
130 COCONUT DR	\$925,000
4151 ESTERO BLVD	\$925,000
101 BAY MAR DR	\$925,000
239 PRIMO DR	\$940,000
530 CARLOS CIR	\$950,000
523 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,050,000
106-108 TROPICAL SHORE WAY #108	\$1,100,000
191 ABERDEEN AVE	\$1,200,000
2900-2902 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,200,000
582 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,300,000
553 ESTERO BLVD	\$1,300,000
750 MATANZAS CT	\$1,600,000
1 BAYVIEW BLVD	\$1,650,000
1550 I ST	\$2,200,000
2870 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,500,000
457 ESTERO BLVD	\$2,850,000
2301-2307 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,100,000
60-64 AVENUE C	\$3,195,000
2430 COTTAGE AVE	\$3,200,000
3060 ESTERO BLVD	\$3,250,000



HAVE QUESTIONS? WE GOT ANSWERS!

Builder Introductions Available! • Canal Homes • New Construction

CONTACT US TODAY 239-747-7446

CURRENTCoastalREALTY.com



Scan for all listings

FORT MYERS BEACH LIVING

A Best Version Media Magazine

An independently owned community magazine.

PUBLISHER..... **Sandy Sandness**
239-222-0129 • ssandness@bestversionmedia.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR **Gary Mooney**
239-898-7905 • gmooney@bestversionmedia.com

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER **Sandy Sandness**

DESIGNER..... **Joe Kelly**

For Sponsorship Information

CONTACT | **Sandy Sandness**
Email | ssandness@bestversionmedia.com
Phone | **239-222-0129**

FEEDBACK / IDEAS / SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 20th of each month, 6 weeks in advance of publication. Email your thoughts, ideas and photographs to gmooney@bestversionmedia.com. Submissions must be original and exclusive to *Fort Myers Beach LIVING*, at a maximum of 500 words. *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, space limitations and spelling.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

- Emergency: 911
- Lee County Sheriff's Office: 239-477-1000
- FMB Fire Department: 239-590-4200
- FMB Town Hall: 239-765-0202
- FMB Public Library: 239-765-8162
- Lee County Parks & Recreation: 239-533-7275
- Beach Elementary School: 239-463-6356
- FMB Water Department: 239-463-9914
- Trash Collection: 239-334-1224
- Florida Power & Light (FPL): 1-800-226-5885
- CenturyLink: 239-335-3111
- Comcast Cable Company: 239-432-9277
- FMB Chamber of Commerce: 239-454-7500

Any content, resident submissions, guest columns, advertisements and advertorials are not necessarily endorsed by or represent the views of Best Version Media (BVM) or any municipality, homeowner's associations, businesses or organizations served by this publication. BVM is not responsible for the reliability, suitability or timeliness of any submitted content. All content submitted is done so at the sole discretion of the submitting party. ©2023 Best Version Media. All rights reserved.



ON THE COVER
The Gauntt Family
Photo by
Sandy Sandness



Fort Myers Beach Life

- ✓ Catch the Perfect Sunset
- ✓ Take a Boat Tour
- ✓ Listen to Live Music Day & Night
- ✓ Enjoy some of the Best Local Restaurants
- ✓ Mingle with the People on & off the Sand while Soaking up the Sun!

The
When, Where and What to Do
on Fort Myers Beach!
WWW.FORTMYERSBEACH.LIFE

SUDOKU

- By Gary Mooney -

SUDOKU RULES:

- Each row must contain the digits 1-9.
- Each column must contain the digits 1-9.
- Each box must contain the digits 1-9.

		5	2					
	3			7		4		
9		1					6	
7				9				
	8		5	1	2		4	
				4				3
	5					8		1
		8		6			5	
				3	2			

Answers on page 12

PAIN Keeping you from doing the things you enjoy?



Gardner Orthopedics focuses on providing patients with all medical options in a caring office environment, offering regenerative medicine, imaging services, physical medicine, rehabilitation, and orthopedic surgical services.

So you can get back to doing the things you love!

Ronald Gardner, MDI ABOS

Specializing in Orthopedic Surgeries and Sports Medicine

Brad Castellano, DPM ABFAS

Specializing in Foot and Ankle Trauma Sports Medicine and Reconstruction

Andrew Hodge, MD ABOS

Specializing in Knee and Hip Surgery

Aileen Padilla, DO

Specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Robert Martinez, MD ABOS

Specializing in Shoulder, Hip, and Knee Arthroscopy; Joint Replacement, and Sports Medicine

www.gardnerorthopedics.com

Prompt appointments available for urgent care.

239-277-7070

3033 Winkler Ave., Suite 100

Ft. Myers, FL 33916

Restorative & Anti-Aging Clinic

Are you struggling with the middle age blues?

Do you feel you are just not yourself or not meeting the expected potential of the "younger" you? Are you feeling run down, low energy, or experiencing muscle loss? Are you starting to see fine wrinkles or loss of skin elasticity?

- Thyroid / Hormone Testing & Management
- Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement
- Food Sensitivity & Micro-Nutrient Testing
- B-12 Injection Packages
- I.V. Vitamin & Chelation Infusions
- OBAGI Skincare Products • Blue Peel Packages
- Botox • Xeomin • Belotero • Radiesse • Volbella
- Voluma • Juvederm • Kybella

Give us a call today to discuss how we can help you be the best you!

Sherry Valverde, APRN-C

NOW OFFERING!

The *Myers' Cocktail* IV Nutrition Therapy

Invented by physician John Myers, as an intravenous nutrient mixture which combines Magnesium, Calcium, B12, B-Complex, Vitamin C and Electrolytes to address a wide range of clinical conditions. Treatment for conditions including but not limited to: inflammation, acute sinusitis, muscle spasm, fatigue, stress and upper respiratory infections to chronic conditions like migraines and allergies. Studies show it can aid in detoxification, increases energy levels and even help cure the side effects of a hangover.

Schedule your drip today!

MORE OPTIONS, LESS RISK — Gardner Orthopedics

Dear Friends & Neighbors!

Here we are coming up on one year since our lives changed forever and I must say I see progress around the island: neighbors are moving back into their homes, more essentials are available, my own home renovation is underway and I see and hear many more smiling faces and laughter!

As we heal we face a big decision, “Do WE allow taller buildings?” This is not the first time our beautiful Island has to grapple with this question. In 1996 a group of neighbors joined together to create a movement that brought about Estero Island separating from Lee County to become the Town of Fort Myers Beach. Our inception was created from the concern for the overbuilding of commercial properties. When I read *FORT MYERS BEACH, A LIVING PARK* the profound statements written with the wisdom of those who went before us and helped make us who we are today profoundly moved me.

An ecologically sensitive, archaeologically significant, historic, livable family friendly, semitropical island/beach, tranquil, resort, vital community, and economically sustainable park are words to guide us as move into the future “with the past providing the focus for the future,” so be involved and attend meetings. If you can’t go in person watch them live or view the recordings on YouTube channels “Town of Fort Myers Beach FL” or “Beach Talk Radio.” Join your neighbors each month at the FMB Woman’s Club Social that will be at Petey’s Upper Deck , Wednesday, August 16th at 5:30. As so many of you already do, follow “Beach Talk Radio” who

has done an outstanding job of keeping us informed and hosting great events for community involvement! Tell everyone about our District ‘A’ rated K-5 Beach Elementary School! Whatever your passion is on this seven-mile stretch of sand, love it and protect it for the generations to come.

Always support our great sponsors who make *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* free to you monthly and I’ll be seeing you soon!



Sandy Sandness

Publisher

Fort Myers Beach LIVING

239-222-0129

ssandness@bestversionmedia.com

FORT MYERS BEACH, A LIVING PARK

“The Town of Fort Myers Beach, through the dedicated effort of the community, has become a living park, existing for the comfort, safety and quality of life of its residents and the peaceful enjoyment of its visitors:

“An **ecologically sensitive park** where visitors have learned to enjoy the unique natural amenities and to take responsibility for protecting the natural environment;

“An **archaeologically significant park** where people come to learn about the native cultures of this area;

“An **historic and livable park** where residents are proud of the community’s heritage and place;

“A **family friendly park** where parents and children are equally nurtured and where recreation is educational;

“A **semitropical island beach park** where all ages enjoy the clean and safe waterfront;

“A **tranquil resort park** where all ages enjoy the clean and safe waterfront;

“A **vital community park** where retired and working citizens share in a positive spirit of volunteerism to assure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy its magic and tranquility; and

“An **economically sustainable park** which protects and promotes its commercial interests and where partnership with the past provides the focus for the future.”

In 1996 the Town of Ft. Myers Beach began work on a comprehensive plan. The plan was completed 3 years later involving hundreds of hours of meetings and community charetts. These statements were written in hopes of what Fort Myers Beach would become.



MOUND HOUSE

**Grounds Open 7 days a week
7:30am - 4pm**

Museum Open Tuesdays,
Thursdays, Saturdays 9am - 4pm
Parking & Grounds are Free
Museum admission \$15 per adult

A picture-perfect setting for
Weddings, Receptions, Anniversaries
Meetings, Luncheons, and Holiday Parties

**451 Connecticut St, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
(239) 765-0865 Visit www.moundhouse.org**



- Explore a 2,000-year-old Calusa Shell Mound with three acres of native gardens!
- View ancient, Calusa-made objects that have been discovered by Archaeologists
- Museum and Museum Store
- Guided Kayak Eco-Tours — Public Kayak Launch
- Observation/Fishing Pier

Become a Mound House Member!





Kate & John Gauntt Move Forward After Ian

- By Gary Mooney -

For John Gauntt, it was love at first sight when he met his future wife, Kate! "I was doing fulltime church work in the Fort Lauderdale area and was part of planting a new church on the Florida Atlantic University campus. Kate was a student and a volunteer at the planning organizational meeting and "from that moment on I kept my eye on her" states John. As a Christian in the ministry, I tried to remain above reproach but when my opportunity arose, I moved fast! Our first date was in March 2010, we were engaged in August and married in January 2011." As for Kate, "I thought John was fun and kind and I enjoyed being with him. We became immediate friends and he remains my best friend to this day!"

Kate is from Fort Lauderdale and John Los Angeles. "I grew up in California on-&-off through my freshman year in high school. Three of those years were spent in Orlando, as Dad was a landscape architect doing theme park design work. While there, we vacationed in North Captiva and that became my favorite place on earth! We moved to Fort Myers in 1999, with my parents renting in McGregor Woods, but one day Mom handed me a key and said to check out this house on Bay Mar Drive on Fort Myers Beach, as she had just bought it. Being a surfer boy and swimmer, I was more excited than for any Christmas!"

Ministry to Charter Fishing

When John and Kate married, they lived for years in fulltime ministry including Mission work in El Salvador. As their fam-

ily grew, they needed a more consistent income, so they returned to Southwest Florida in 2017 to explore their options. John's parents encouraged them to move in, "so we flooded their house with all our kids!" After a year-and-a-half, they told John's parents that "we can't crowd you anymore" and began searching for their own home, but John's parents "had other ideas, as they needed to relocate to care for my grandparents, so they sold their house to us in 2019. It is cool to raise our family in my former home." Kate has fond FMB memories as well. "Like many Southeast Floridians, we vacationed here so I always thought of it as a safe haven. It has such a joyous smalltown feel."

The Gauntts have eight children: Dedrick who is 16, 15-year-old Anthony, Nyia who is 14, then 11-year-old Claire, with Lora being 9, Ruth 8, Jimmy 6, & Josie 2. "Our three oldest were foster kids I first met through my Mom," Kate explains, "who ran a foster home while I was in college. Dedrick, Anthony and Nyia are siblings who were ages 1 to 3 when we first met, and although they eventually left, we remained in contact with them. Soon they returned to the foster care system and, for the sake of consistency, foster care asked Mom if she would take them again. John and I were newlyweds with a small starter home, and our first child was 6 months old, but Mom suggested we take them in, as they were comfortable with us. People today think we are crazy to have eight kids, but nothing will be harder than that year, because I was just 23, a newlywed, a new Mom, and now parents to three traumatized little humans!"

They rave about their Bay Mar Drive neighbors. “Most are older and already raised kids themselves,” says Kate, “so I originally did not know what they thought of us, as we have so many children – I was constantly asking, ‘are we bothering you,’ but they are all so sweet and seemingly enjoyed our chaos; they take care and look out for us so we have a special street!”

The Gauntts eventually founded “Day 5 Charters,” specializing in fishing, island tours, ecotours, and related excursions featuring good family fun. “The name comes from Genesis Chapter 1, that on Day 5, God created the fish, birds, and all sea life,” explains John. “My grandfather took me fishing since I could hold a rod and I was always a ‘water kid,’ as I attended college on a swimming and water polo scholarship. When I was young, I told people I wanted to do one of two things – become a Pastor or a fishing guide and each came true! While dreaming up business ideas one night, Kate suggested becoming a fishing guide and doing something I already did and enjoyed. That was all the permission I needed to call her from the boat sales desk the next day. Five years later, we now have three boats: the Genesis, Exodus and Leviticus!”

A Nomadic Life

When Ian hit, the Gauntts rode it out on the island, ultimately relocating to a neighbor’s home. “We have eight kids and three dogs, so moving everyone is a big production,” says John. “We waffled back and forth as to stay or go, but when most of our neighbors said they would stay, we did as well in case they needed help.”

“We had a second generator and prepared for up to a 10-foot storm surge,” Kate explains. “We lived in El Salvador in third world conditions with a bunch of kids for almost a year, so if anyone was ready for this, it was us,” adds John. “At 10 a.m., however, I drove to the end of the street and saw a wall of water and thought maybe we should evacuate to my brother’s house in Gateway, but concluded it was too late and hunkered down.”

“The water came up so fast,” marvels Kate. “I am glad we stayed, though, because after Ian, ours was the only working generator on the street so everyone brought over their food and medicine and telephones to charge.” “The next day, we walked our kids and a few trash bags full of muddy clothes the three miles to the bridge where Grandma picked them up,” says John, “then Kate and I returned to the house to save what was left. While Ian inflicted considerable damage to our home, the Day 5 charter boats survived with minimal damage. Our fishing gear sustained heavy losses but we resumed limited business in February.”

Since then, the Gauntts have lived a nomadic life. “We were in several different places the first eight weeks,” relates Kate. “We hopped from one airbnb to another, then around Thanksgiving squeezed into a small hunting trailer in our driveway on the beach. There was an article about us that two Sanibel doctors read and they remembered that they met John once while surfing in El Salvador years ago. They offered us their Estero house rent-free for six months and we took it.” “Even though we plan to move back home to the beach soon, the house is far from complete,” John cautions. “Hopefully we can have a working bathroom and a couple of rooms drywalled before we return.”

Continued on page 13

“We are so happy the Lee County School District will rebuild Beach Elementary School as that is a huge part of our community,” offers John

The Gauntts eventually founded “Day 5 Charters,” specializing in fishing, island tours, ecotours, and related excursions featuring good family fun.

“Even though we plan to move back home to the beach soon, the house is far from complete,” John cautions. “Hopefully we can have a working bathroom and a couple of rooms drywalled before we return.”



TOP RECENT SALES FOR FORT MYERS BEACH

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES 5-25-2023 to 6-28-2023

Address	Beds/Baths	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
381 SEMINOLE WAY	5 Bed/5.5	3,332	\$3,000,000
457 ESTERO BLVD	4 Bed/3	2,784	\$2,850,000
205 BAYVIEW AVE	3 Bed/3	2,385	\$2,725,000
218 ANCHORAGE ST	4 Bed/3	2,076	\$1,750,000
8223 ESTERO BLVD	2+Den/3	1,824	\$1,100,000
8339 ESTERO BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,562	\$1,020,000
21560 WIDGEON TER	3+Den/2	1,817	\$958,000
8 PALMVIEW BLVD	3 Bed/2.5	1,776	\$950,000
130 COCONUT DR	3+Den/2	1,634	\$925,000
301 SEMINOLE WAY	3 Bed/2	1,546	\$835,000
465 DONORA BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,429	\$800,000
5 CLEARVIEW BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,281	\$790,000
230 FAIRWEATHER LN	4 Bed/4	1,680	\$775,000
401 DONORA BLVD	3 Bed/2	1,279	\$755,000
405 CONNECTICUT ST	2 Bed/2.5	1,313	\$711,000
141 COCONUT DR	3 Bed/3	1,416	\$675,000
132 ANDRE MAR DR	3 Bed/2	1,320	\$635,000
455 DONORA BLVD	2 Bed/1	1,060	\$625,000
160 SABAL DR	2 Bed/2	1,173	\$560,000
8030 LAGOON RD	3 Bed/2	1,400	\$552,000
8020 LAGOON RD	3 Bed/2	1,174	\$550,000

MANUFACTURED HOMES 5-25-2023 TO 6-28-2023

WATERSIDE AT BAY BEACH #3H4	3 Bed/3	1,654	\$1,033,000
WATERSIDE AT BAY BEACH #3P6	3 Bed/2	1,639	\$900,000
ESTERO ISLAND BEACH VILLAS #505	2 Bed/2	988	\$888,000
ESTERO BAYSIDE #2304	3 Bed/3	2,226	\$775,000

CONDOS 5-25-2023 to 6-28-2023

Sub/Condo	Beds/Baths	Sq. Ft.	Sold Price
2532 ESTERO BLVD #604	2+Den/2	1,259	\$900,000
170 LENELL RD #602	2 Bed/2	1,394	\$900,000
8751 ESTERO BLVD #902	2+Den/2	1,448	\$875,000
2532 ESTERO BLVD #205	2+Den/2	1,312	\$800,000
6670 ESTERO BLVD #A902	3 Bed/2	1,244	\$750,000
7150 ESTERO BLVD #307	2 Bed/2	1,545	\$611,500
6670 ESTERO BLVD #A102	2 Bed/2	1,244	\$595,000
4198 BAY BEACH LN #133	3 Bed/2	1,458	\$590,000
8350 ESTERO BLVD #516	2 Bed/2	933	\$525,000
7360 ESTERO BLVD #604	1 Bed/1	517	\$430,000
4421 BAY BEACH LN #613	2 Bed/2	997	\$400,000
6895 ESTERO BLVD #543	2 Bed/2	778	\$395,000
22652 ISLAND PINES WAY #152	2 Bed/2	811	\$389,000
190 ESTERO BLVD #202	1 Bed/1	656	\$380,000
4541 BAY BEACH LN #343	2 Bed/2.5	1,214	\$335,000
2532 ESTERO BLVD #604	2+Den/2	1,259	\$900,000

LOTS 5-25-2023 TO 6-28-2023

Address	Lot Frontage	Lot Left	Sold Price
4690-4700 ESTERO BLVD	150	175	\$4,410,000
499 PALERMO CIR	59	123	\$1,500,000
463 PALERMO CIR	75	120	\$1,500,000
582 ESTERO BLVD	50	115	\$1,300,000
553 ESTERO BLVD	97	130	\$1,300,000
530 CARLOS CIR	75	104	\$950,000
101 BAY MAR DR	65	101	\$925,000
7909 ESTERO BLVD	80	120	\$685,000
121 GULF ISLAND DR	74	98	\$640,000
111 BAY MAR DR	90	113	\$600,000
122 GULFVIEW AVE	50	125	\$496,000
289 LAZY WAY	50	100	\$492,000

Based on information from the Florida Gulf Coast MLS, Inc. for the period 5-25-23 to 6-28-23 for FB01-FB07 • Best Version Media does not guarantee the accuracy of the statistical data on this page. The data does not represent the listings of any one agent or agency but the entire real estate community in the area. Any real estate agent's ad appearing in the magazine is separate from the statistical data provided which is in no way a part of their advertisement.



LIVE THE GULF COAST DREAM!



In today's Real Estate, it takes more than just searching for a home on the internet.... Allow our extensive network of connections, strong marketing skills and knowledge of the area to sell or find your perfect home.

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR 57 YEARS
Today's friends... Tomorrow's neighbors... It's time to experience the Lahaina difference.




Lahaina Realty 6035 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
239.463.0000 | sales@fmb.sun.com | www.fmb.sun.com

DYS DIVERSIFIED YACHT SERVICES, INC.
751 Fishermans Wharf • Ft. Myers Beach
239.765.8700 • DYSinc.com

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Outboard Service Center
- Factory Trained Technicians
- Services, repowers, diagnostics, electronics installation
- Accessory installation i.e. power pole and trolling motor
- All major OEM parts for gas and diesel engines

VISIT DICK'S FOR ALL YOUR SHIPBOARD GOODS:

- FUEL ■ BAIT & TACKLE ■ BOATING ACCESSORIES
- REFRESHMENTS ■ APPAREL & MORE

Dick's BAIT & TACKLE
703 FISHERMANS WHARF • FT. MYERS BEACH 33931

FORT MYERS BEACH Woman's Club

- By Sandy Sandness -

Get your Fort Myers Beach Pub Passport! Enjoy great food and drink specials, support local businesses and help the FMB Woman's Club rebuild their clubhouse! ■

Buy your 2023 Fort Myers Beach Pub Passport!

From July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023!

Enjoy drink and food specials from 12 Fort Myers beach bars & restaurants

ONLY \$25

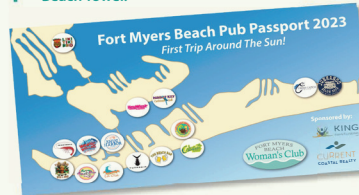
- Passports will be shipped directly to you
- Visit and support the 12 Fort Myers Beach Bars and Restaurants between July 1 and December 31, 2023.
- Request and receive your passport stamp at each location
- Send back your stamped passport
- WIN trips on the Key West Express and more!
- The first 1,000 to complete get a commemorative Fort Myers Beach Towel!



PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:

Liki Tiki BBQ, Parrot Key Caribbean Grill, Lighthouse Tiki Bar, Snug Harbor, Wahoo Willie's, Yucatan, La Ola, The Rude Shrimp, The Beach Bar, Cabanas, Junkanoo and Fresh Catch Bistro.

Special thanks to: Tunaskin, Key West Express and Chester Rogers
www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5GK4Y3Y8N4Y



Sunshine WINDOW
Fashions & Design

PERSONALIZED WINDOW TREATMENTS

- Shutters & Blinds
- Woven Woods & Shades
- Cornices & Drapes
- Valances & Toppers
- Re-upholstery & Pillows
- Bedspreads & much more!

Everything from design to install.
We guarantee a professional job every time! In-Home consultations.

SunshineWindowFashion.com
239-699-2212
SunshineWindowFashion@msn.com

ENJOY FOOD & DRINK
Full Menu Available

at our Patio or Swing Bar
Open Daily 11am • LIVE MUSIC 2-5pm

YUCATAN BEACH STAND BAR & GRILL

239.333.4386
YucatanBeachStand.com
250 Old San Carlos Blvd, FMB

YUCATAN BEACH STAND BAR & GRILL

Why Is My Homeowners' Insurance Premium So High?



- By Wendy Matura -



Why is my Homeowners Insurance Premium so high and what can I do about it?

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, homeowners insurance costs in our area have skyrocketed with no end in sight. On one hand, you want to provide the needed financial protection for your home but on the other the costs are outrageous. There has to be a better way. Actually, there is!

Below is my four-point strategy on actions you can take today to make sure that you are obtaining the best possible insurance coverage at the best possible pricing.

1. Understand the importance of Wind Mitigation Reports

Fort Myers Beach is prone to strong winds, making wind mitigation reports a vital component in obtaining the best possible insurance program. These reports assess the resiliency of your home against hurricane force winds. It will identify the features that make your home more resistant to wind damage, such as impact resistant windows, reinforced doors, and a secure roof structure. Submitting these reports to your insurance provider can result in significant discounts.

2. Review your Flood Elevation Report

Because we live on an island, flood insurance is a critical consideration for beach homes. Obtaining a Flood Elevation report helps determine your risk of flooding and the appropriate needed flood insurance coverage. This report identifies your property's elevation in relation to the Base Flood Elevation, (BFE) that is a key factor in determining flood insurance coverage and premiums. If your home is located above the BFE you may be eligible for lower rates. Given recent legislative and construction activities this can be a changing target so getting an accurate flood elevation assessment is crucial to maximizing your program.

3. Consider a Four-Point Inspection

Especially for older homes, a four-point inspection is very valuable. This assesses the condition of four key components: electrical, plumbing, HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning) and your roof. This inspection aims to determine the overall safety and insurability of the property. Like the others above, obtaining this report can help make sure you are getting the best results.

4. Get Expert Advice

Navigating the complexities of insurance for beach homes requires the expertise of a qualified insurance professional, who knows the specific needs of living on the island. Make



*We've weathered the storms with you.
We will be building back on the beach soon.
Until then, we are here to service you from our
Gladiolous office below*



Wendy Matura
wendy@trustrti.com
D (239)314-1307
O (239)463-5200

**SERVING FORT MYERS BEACH FROM THE SAME
LOCATION ON ESTERO BLVD SINCE 1997!**

HOME • FLOOD • AUTO • CONDO • BOAT

9681 Gladiolus Drive Suite 111, Fort Myers, FL 33908 • www.trustrti.com



sure you work with somebody who understands these unique coverage needs. This is critical, as your island insurance needs are very different from somebody living inland. You want to be with somebody with great experience and expertise, who lives it every day and can bring a “been there done that” approach to helping you. What you don’t know can hurt you! One size does not fit all. Make sure you’re working with somebody who understands your unique coverage issues.

Conclusion

Obtaining and lowering homeowners insurance costs on Fort Myers Beach post Hurricane Ian is possible through informed actions and seeking expert advice. Obtain wind mitigation reports to demonstrate your home’s resilience against strong winds. Evaluate flood elevation reports to accurately assess your flood insurance needs. Consider four-point inspections to show how your home’s components are up to standards and finally and most importantly consult with a qualified insurance expert who understands the insurance requirements specific to living on the island. By taking these steps, you can optimize your insurance coverage and secure lower premiums while safeguarding your home and financial well-being. Acting on these items and seeking specific professional guidance will help you make the most informed decisions that will benefit you in the long run. ■

About the author: Wendy Matura has been an insurance agent located on Fort Myers Beach since 1999, leading that office for RTI Insurance. During this time she has helped thousands of residents navigate the insurance marketplace through the many storms, floods and hurricanes that have come through our community.



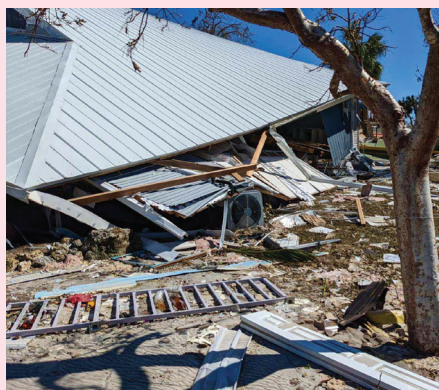
A Blank Canvas

- By Gary Mooney -

FMBAA Already Painting With a Full Palette

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) traces its history back to 1951, with art shows and meetings in a member-constructed chickee hut. After two other temporary homes, the FMBAA acquired land in 1965 at 3030 Shell Mound Boulevard and built its permanent gallery in 1968, with expansions in 1978 and 1984.

“Hurricane Ian totally destroyed the FMBAA & Gallery” relates FMBAA Past President Star Sherwood. “When Ian came roaring ashore last September, our annual Summer Show was on dis-



“I fully expected the building to be gone,” recalls FMBAA Past President Star Sherwood. “Even with that mindset . . . it was devastating and I was heartbroken.”

play in the Gallery. The walls were full of original pieces of artwork but after only a few were found strewn around in the sand near the parking lot but most were gone. Including all the important documents that were kept in a fireproof safe that sadly was not waterproof.

A Close-Knit Family

The FMBAA priority in Ian’s immediate aftermath was its members. “I felt it was my duty as the FMBAA President at that time to contact each person to see if they needed clothes, a place to stay, food or money, so we helped each member as best we could. The next issue was to find a place where we could all gather together, as the FMBAA is a close-knit family that really loves and cares about each other and we all needed to be together as part of the healing process.

Fortunately, the Alliance for the Arts reached out and offered us a classroom. Some days we painted and worked on our own creations and other days we simply talked and shared hugs and our stories.” By late 2022, the Alliance for the Arts needed its space Star explains that “the Fort Myers Congregational United Church of Christ on

Continued on page 13



August

Tues., August 1
FMBA Summer Art Show:
“FORTITUDE”

@Tribby Art Center at Shell Point
FORTITUDE features magnificent artworks by the FMB Art Association and the SanCap Art League that will cure your “Summertime Blues” during “Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer,” cooling your mind with a “Summer Breeze” while ensuring that you will have “Hot Fun in The Summertime!” “FORTITUDE” runs through September 7.
Time: Tues.-Sat., 10am-3pm
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeachart.com

Thurs., August 3
FMB Chamber “Coffee Connection”

@Beach Pottery
Start your day networking with your FMB Chamber friends while savoring complimentary coffee and breakfast items.
Time: 8-9:30am
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeach.org

Thurs., August 3
Shell Mound Tour

@The Historic Mound House
Discover the archaeology and history of the Mound House property and learn the clues uncovered about this 1,600-year-old shell mound. This hands-on 30-minute tour explores the environmental and cultural history of the site and features replica artifact demonstrations.
Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays at Noon
Cost: \$5 per person plus MH admission.
www.moundhouse.org

Mon., August 7
FMB Town Council Meeting

@DiamondHead Beach Resort
The FMB Town Council ends its Summer Meetings hiatus and continues its efforts to rebuild Fort Myers Beach following Hurricane Ian.
Time: 9am
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Tues., August 8
FMB Local Planning Agency Meeting

@DiamondHead Beach Resort
The FMB LPA, appointed by Town Council, continues efforts to rebuild Fort Myers Beach following Hurricane Ian.
Time: 9am
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Tues., August 8
Mound House Lecture Series

@The Historic Mound House
Annisa Karim, Randell Research Center Operations Manager, presents “The History of the Randell Research Center: The Beginnings of the Pineland Site Complex.” Dozens of Pineland Site Complex archaeological digs over 40 years uncovered much of what we know about the Calusa. Annisa will take us through the history of how the Randell Research Center came to be and the beginnings of the Pineland Site Complex. A complimentary wine and “light bites” reception proceeds the lecture.
Time: Reception: 5:30pm; Lecture 6pm
Cost: \$7 for Mound House members and \$15 non-members.
www.moundhouse.org

Thurs., August 10
FMB Town Council Management & Planning Session

@DiamondHead Beach Resort
The FMB Town Council concludes its Summer Meetings hiatus and continues its efforts to rebuild Fort Myers Beach following Hurricane Ian.
Time: 9am
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Thurs., August 10
FMB Chamber Membership Luncheon

@Mango Rita's Rhythm House
Join your FMB Chamber friends and hear from Captain Chris Wittman, cofounder of “Captains for Clean Water.” #FMBStrong sponsors Captain Wittman's presentation.
Time: 11:30am-1pm
Cost: Members \$30; prospective members \$40
www.fortmyersbeach.org

Sat., August 12
Mound House Kayak Tour

@The Historic Mound House
Explore the winding mangrove creeks and hidden backwaters of the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve. This unique 2-hour tour offers the rare opportunity to experience the abundant life within an estuary. The Mound House provides all paddling and safety equipment; ages 12 & up, weather permitting and participants must wear shoes.
Time: Saturdays at 9am
Cost: \$50 per person that includes Mound House admission; Mound House members \$20.
www.moundhouse.org

Wed., August 16
FMB Women's Club Social

@Petey's Upper Deck
Everyone welcome! Enjoy drinks and great food while socializing with your friends and neighbors.
Time: 5:30 - 7:30pm
Cost: Free - Cash Bar
www.fmb-wc.org

Thurs., August 17
FMB Chamber “Business After Hours”

@Adventures In Paradise
Join your FMB Chamber friends for networking as well as savoring tasty complimentary appetizers and a cash bar.
Time: 5:30-7pm
Cost: Members Free; \$15 perspective members
www.fortmyersbeach.org

Mon., August 21
FMB Town Council Meeting

@DiamondHead Beach Resort
Council ends its Summer Meetings hiatus and continues its efforts to rebuild Fort Myers Beach following Hurricane Ian.
Time: 9am
Cost: Free
www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov

Answers from page 3

4	7	5	2	8	6	1	3	9
8	3	6	1	7	9	4	2	5
9	2	1	4	3	5	7	6	8
7	6	4	3	9	8	5	1	2
3	8	9	5	1	2	6	4	7
5	1	2	6	4	7	9	8	3
6	5	3	9	2	4	8	7	1
2	9	8	7	6	1	3	5	4
1	4	7	8	5	3	2	9	6



SUDOKU

Continued from page 11

Collage Parkway made available its beautiful Fellowship Hall for our indoor paint days, workshops, classes, board meetings and potlucks so, believe it or not, we have had a full 2022/23 season and will continue to have a complete 2023/24 one as well.”

“It blows me away how the surrounding communities reached out to us,” Star expresses, “with love and compassion so the FMBAA can continue on in some sense of normalcy. This includes many financial donations from individuals, various art leagues from all over the country, local and non-local corporations, friends and neighbors. We have been able to be there for other art leagues that needed some help as well, explains Star. “In the wake of Ian, the SanCap Art League was struggling so we invited them to be part of two of our shows. It was exciting that several of those members won awards at our recent BIG ARTS show!” We welcome anyone who wants to become a new member!

With its gallery gone, a current FMBAA mainstay is its talented Plein Air art group. “There are roughly 25 amazing artists in Plein Air and nothing stops them, not even a major hurricane,” gushes Star! “You will see them painting all across FMB, Sanibel, Bonita Springs, and Fort Myers. We have the best Plein Air club on the planet!”

The FMBAA recently signed a contract with MK Architecture to design a new building on their Shell Mound Boulevard site. The proposed gallery will be a two-story 3,500 sq.ft. concrete structure to include the FMBAA’s working arts studio. The FMBAA will elevate its new gallery to conform with FEMA flood standards, with an elevator to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Preliminary cost estimates range from \$1 to \$2 million, with the FMBAA having roughly half that amount from prior savings as well as donations received since Hurricane Ian, and will seek grant dollars to assist their effort. They hope the new FMBAA gallery will be complete in approximately one year.

FMBAA exhibits are at venues such as BIG ARTS on Sanibel and the Tribby Art Center at Shell Point that hosts the FMBAA 2023 Summer Show, “Fortitude,” that runs Tuesdays through Saturdays through Thursday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn the locations of our upcoming exhibits or check on the progress of the rebuild of our gallery, please see our website at www.fortmyersbeachart.com as it is chockful of information. “We have been a part of the FMB community for a long time and it is our mission to provide it with wonderful art so our goal is to remain a vibrant member of this island. ■



Fort Myers Beach LIVING

Continued from page 7

Greater Than We Can Ever Imagine!

As every islander grapples with remaining or relocating, the Gauntts will stay. “We are so happy the Lee County School District will rebuild Beach Elementary School as that is a huge part of our community,” offers John. “We are proud to be part of rebuilding the Town, though that will take years.”

He estimates that 70% of their Bay Mar Drive neighbors are rebuilding. “Someone asked if I knew what I know today about Ian, would we stay and I replied, ‘Yes.’ That is the price you pay to live in this community, with such terrific family values and where you live a block from the Gulf; those benefits are worth it to us – we can handle it! We willingly trade the quality-of-life FMB offers in exchange for a disaster every once in a while.”

So what will FMB look like in five years? “It will still have massive scarring,” predicts John. “I think we will have a great plan underway but it will be ten years before it comes to fruition. I say ‘let’s go big and go up’ where appropriate and Moss Marina’s Arches project is an excellent example. Before Ian, FMB was looking old and dilapidated so this tragedy is an excellent opportunity to build a new Town, where people will one day exclaim, ‘WOW, this is better!’ We will not be the next Lauderdale or Miami or even Naples, but a better FMB – we can do this!”

“The uniqueness of our community is not its buildings but our people,” summarizes Kate. “Our citizens are so strong and the community so resilient that those traits are the foundation of this Town and always will be.” “FMB has the location and the lifestyle,” concludes John. “We have the beach, water, wildlife and the best people anywhere, where everyone is your neighbor and that is what makes this place special. I cannot wait to see what the future brings because that is exciting and that excitement is contagious. We are on track for something great; greater than we can ever imagine!” ■

After Ian!

- By Gary Mooney -

In our next few issues, *Fort Myers Beach LIVING* will catch up with some of our former Cover Story subjects, to learn what life is like for them “After Ian.” This month we speak with Alex King of Current Coastal Reality: Alex King Group, as we profiled he and his wife Nina in our February 2022 edition.

“Nina and I lost everything except for the structure of our ranch home, including our cars and all of our clothes and photographs, and any other kind of creature comforts you can imagine, as we are full-time residents so this was our home. Sadly, we just completed a major renovation not long before Ian, including a new roof and doors. One other important thing we lost in the first few months after Ian was our sanity, especially in October and November of last year; now that is mostly back but I wondered at times if that would ever return!”

Alex says that he and Nina “are 100% remaining on the beach, so what we are doing is a bit of a combination of renovating again as well as rebuilding. If we do renovate our home, we will most likely elevate it to current FEMA and flood plain standards, or we may just start over from scratch and build something new on that parcel. Those things are running on parallel tracks right now with the final decision still up in the air.”

The Kings did not have to decide whether to stay on the island or evacuate during Ian because they were on vacation, in the middle of a 21-day cruise from Copenhagen to New York City. “The storm was forming as we were arriving in Iceland; the next four days on the ship to NYC was a tremendously helpless feeling. Once we arrived in New York, we flew to Miami, rent-

ed a car and eventually came onto the island to see the damages for ourselves, as well as to retrieve whatever personal items we could salvage. Fortunately, seeing what was left of our home was not a total shock, as a family member took photographs so we knew what to expect, but even seeing photos beforehand did not accurately prepare us for what we saw with our own eyes.”

When asked how Ian changed their lives, Alex responds with a long “WHEW!!! Personally, it made us realize that life is fleeting and while personal possessions are great, it really is more important to enjoy life and appreciate those around you. I still work fulltime but I now know I must do a better job in balancing that with increased time for my wife, family, friends and community. Professionally, however, never in my wildest dreams as a realtor did I think I would be ten times as busy after Ian as before, so that is insane! Business pre-hurricane was on cruise control and now it is skyrocketing!”

Alex concludes by saying, “the most amazing thing to me over these past ten months is seeing all the visitors who returned to the island since Ian. They had few places to stay and few bars and restaurants in which to recreate, with no gas stations or 7/11s and hardly any retail outlets, yet their loyalty to FMB is so total and their love of the beach so complete that here they are anyhow. That showed me just how much people love Fort Myers Beach and how truly special is this place that we all call home!” ■



Ft. Myers Beach Beach Pottery

1000'S OF POTS

You'll find just what you need to brighten your home or add a little flair outside.

- Large Glazed Planters
- Talavera Mexican Pottery
- Metal Wall Art
- Souvenirs, Gifts, Jewelry, Hats, Bags, Beachwear
- And Much MORE!
- Local Original Art
- Chainsaw Wood Carvings
- Marble Sculptures



OVER 1 ACRE OF POTTERY & ART OUT BACK!

There's always something new here!



17980 San Carlos Blvd • Fort Myers Beach • 239-437-4211

1.5 miles before the bridge • Open every day 7am-6pm • www.fortmyersbeachpottery.com



CELEBRATE FORT MYERS BEACH LIVING'S RETURN!

For the best selection, service and value...It's Gotta Be GAVIN's
YOUR COMPLETE PROJECT PLACE

Gavin's ACE Family Owned & Operated Since 1987!



Proud Member
FMB
 FORT MYERS BEACH
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Home Of Top Shelf Brands *AND* World Class Service



ACE Rewards GET YOURS TODAY!!!

It's Easy:
 Either: visit acehardware.com or visit in store - it only takes a few minutes!

FREE ASSEMBLY & DELIVERY
 ON GRILLS & ACCESSORIES TOTALING \$399 AND UP!

BLACKSTONE **weber** **TRAERGER** **Big Green Egg**
 WOOD FIRED GRILLS The Ultimate Cooking Experience

Bulk Propane Fills Including RVs Don't Pay More For Less

Propane Tanks Sold Separately Full line of accessories including sauces

\$5 OFF Gallon of Paint With Pint Sample Purchase

Offer valid on gallons of Benjamin Moore Select and Ben, Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines, Clark + Kensington and Regal paint. One coupon per gallon.

Benjamin Moore Paints **MAGNOLIA HOME** BY JOANNA GAINES premium paint by KILZ **CLARK + KENSINGTON** PAINT + PRIMER IN ONE

<p>Gavin's ACE It's Gotta Be Gavin's</p> <p>\$25 OFF</p> <p>ANY PURCHASE OF \$100 OR MORE</p> <p><small>Not Valid On Weber, Traeger Or Big Green Egg Grills. \$25 Off On Purchase Of Regularly Priced Items Of \$100 Or More. Not To Be Combined With Other Offers. Valid At Either Location. Valid with FMB Living coupon only.</small></p> <p>EXPIRES 8/31/23</p>	<p>Gavin's ACE It's Gotta Be Gavin's</p> <p>\$13 OFF</p> <p>ANY PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE</p> <p><small>Not Valid On Weber, Traeger Or Big Green Egg Grills. \$13 Off On Purchase Of Regularly Priced Items Of \$50 Or More. Not To Be Combined With Other Offers. Valid At Either Location. Valid with this FMB Living coupon.</small></p> <p>EXPIRES 8/31/23</p>	<p>Gavin's ACE It's Gotta Be Gavin's</p> <p>COMPUTERIZED LASER KNIFE SHARPENING WHILE YOU WAIT GET 1 SHARPENED GET 2ND FREE</p> <p><small>2 1/2" to 12" straight edge blades. (non serrated - non ceramic) 2 free sharpens per customer Valid with FMB Living coupon only.</small></p> <p>EXPIRES 8/31/23</p>
---	---	--

HOME OF ROCK STAR SERVICE & ROCK STAR BRANDS
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1987!

Gavin's ACE

ORDER ONLINE & PICK UP IN STORE ITS EASY
 Choose Gavin's Ace Fort Myers or Cape, pay online and follow pick up instructions.
ACEHARDWARE.COM

FORT MYERS 16025 San Carlos Blvd. 239-466-7777
CAPE CORAL 290 Nicholas Pkwy. NW 239-945-6223

BEST OF MULTI YEAR WINNER!
 NEWSPRESS • OBSERVER • BREEZE • JD POWER

gavinsacehardware.com

FORT MYERS BEACH
5036
STRONGER
Living
Together

BREAKFAST ALL DAY • LUNCH • DINNER

SUMMERLIN CAFE

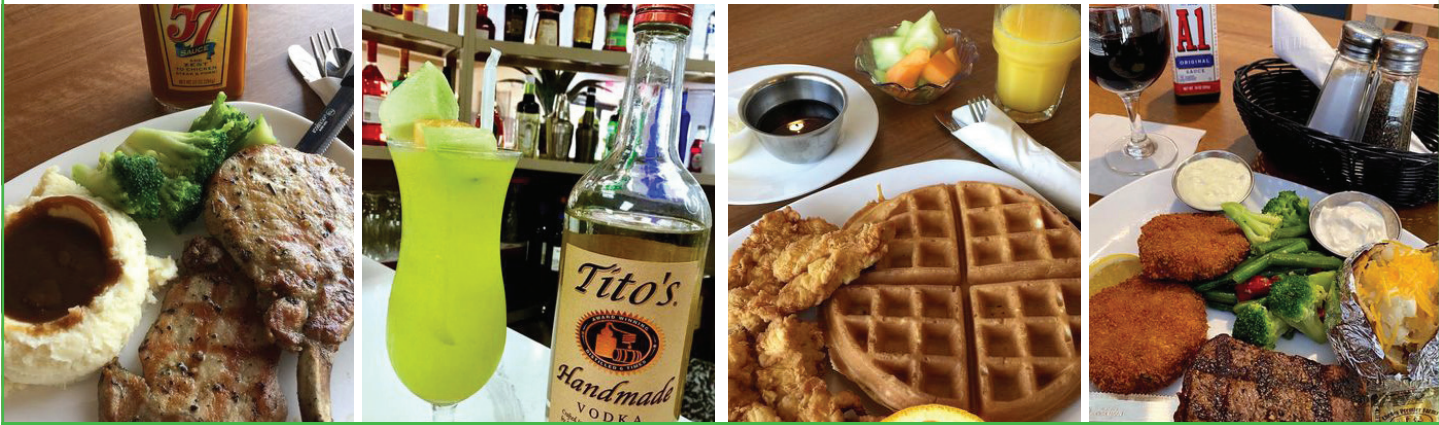
FORT MYERS BEACH

GREAT FOOD & COCKTAILS

OPEN DAILY 6:30am - 8pm
Carry Out Available

**DAILY SPECIALS • FULL BAR
BEST FOOD AND SERVICE IN TOWN!**

Host your next meeting/gathering
in our private dining space
for up to 60 people.



11370 Summerlin Square Drive, Fort Myers Beach Next to Wal-mart
(239) 689-4636 • SummerlinCafe.com